

The Musica Deo Sacra Choir

Festival Director: Carleton Etherington

Organist: Paul Walton

Vicar: Revd Canon Nick Davies

In 2018 The Patrons of MDS was founded to ensure the continuity and development of this festival. As Musica Deo Sacra is entirely self-financing, most of the income for the festival comes from the generosity of those who give to the collections taken at services. The necessary cost of administration, marketing, publicity, producing programmes and service sheets must all be met before more enterprising projects such as commissioning new music or collaborating with other musicians can be contemplated.



Patrons receive an annual newsletter and are invited to attend a special Patrons' Reception held during each festival. By becoming a Patron, you will be supporting the work and ensuring the ongoing success of this unique and much-loved festival. Membership forms are available in the Abbey or may be downloaded from the Abbey website. Alternatively you can contact the Abbey office.



Welcome to Musica Deo Sacra 2026

Founded in 1969, Musica Deo Sacra is a festival celebrating music in the liturgy, held in the majestic setting of Tewkesbury Abbey. The nine choral services – Masses, Evensongs, Compline, a Requiem and Matins – are the beating heart of the festival, and performing this music within the proper liturgical context, rather than a concert, gives the week a unique and special flavour.

In addition to the services, there are further musical and social events. This year we also welcome Tim Pople of 'In Quires and Places where they meme' fame - familiar to those of you who use Facebook! - who will deliver an entertaining talk on the behind the scenes world of cathedral choirs.

MDS has always supported the composition of new music and, this year, it is a great pleasure to premiere a commissioned anthem by Canadian composer, Stephanie Martin. We also mark the significant anniversaries of a number of leading composers including Thomas Weelkes, Samuel Sebastian Wesley, Charles Wood and Benjamin Britten.

From ancient plainsong and glorious polyphony to the most spine-tingling contemporary pieces, we look forward to presenting the very best in sacred choral music in this glorious setting.



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Musica Deo Sacra 2026



A Festival Celebrating Music in the Liturgy

Monday 3 August to Sunday 9 August

Musica Deo Sacra 2026



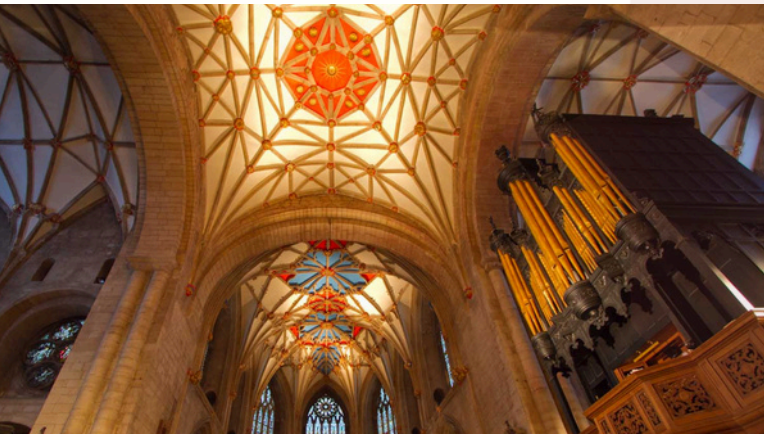
Monday 3 August

- 7.00pm Solemn Evensong**
Wesley I am thine
Byrd Responses
Wood in F (Collegium Regale)
Weelkes Gloria in excelsis Deo
Preacher: Revd Canon Dr Sarah Brush
(Vice-Principal, Ripon College Cuddesdon)

Tuesday 4 August

- 11.00am High Mass**
Eucharistic Devotion
Dove Missa Brevis
Whitlock Be still, my soul
Tallis O salutaris hostia
Hassler O sacrum convivium
Pott Ubi caritas
Preacher: Revd Canon Rosie Woodall
(Vice Dean and Canon Precentor, Chester Cathedral)

- 7.30pm Lecture (Abbey House)**
Bijan Omrani (Author, Academic and Historian)



Wednesday 5 August

- 11.00am High Mass**
Veneration of the Cross
Lassus Missa Bel' Amfitrit' Altera
Lotti Crucifixus
Weelkes When David heard
Moore It is a thing most wonderful
Ouseley O Saviour of the world
Preacher: Revd Canon Kimberley Bohan
(Residentiary Canon, Worcester Cathedral)

- 7.30pm Milton Organ Recital**
Paul Walton (Assistant Organist,
Bristol Cathedral)

- 9.00pm Compline**
Tallis O nata lux
Baskerville Te lucis ante terminum
Sheppard In pace
Parsons Ave Maria

Thursday 6 August

- 6.00pm Choral Evensong**
Wood Hail gladdening light
Bertalot Festal Responses
Sanders Gloucester Service
Stephanie Martin Tabor's Crest (MDS
commission – first performance)

Followed by a **reception** and **talk** (Parish Hall)
Tim Popple (In Quires and Places where they meme)

Friday 7 August

- 7.00pm Requiem Mass**
Richafort Requiem

Saturday 8 August

- 11.00am Solemn Matins**
Weelkes O how amiable
Leighton Responses
Britten in C
Wesley Ascribe unto the Lord

Followed by a reception at the west end of the nave

- 4.00pm Chamber Concert**
(Old Baptist Chapel)
Newe Vialles - Old Viols
Dances and divisions for two historical
bass viols. Henrik Persson and Caroline
Ritchie - viola da gamba

Tickets £20 from The John Moore Museum

Sunday 9 August

- 11.00am High Mass**
Briggs Messe pour Notre Dame
Byrd Ave verum corpus
Preacher: Very Revd Mark Oakley
(Dean of Southwark)

- 6.00pm Solemn Evensong and
Benediction**
Wood Oculi omnium
Sanders Responses
Howells in G
Britten Hymn to St Cecilia
Elgar O salutaris hostia
Henschel Tantum ergo
Preacher: Revd Canon Nick Davies
(Vicar, Tewkesbury Abbey)

